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Night nurses.—Eleven-and-a-quarter hours per day between 5-45 p.m. and 6-30 a.m., with intervals for rest and meals.

Nurses are also allowed off-duty time as follows:—

Pupil nurses—one full day and two half days per month.

Staff nurses—one full day per month and one half day per week.

The time-table in the other hospitals has been so drawn up by the Superintendents concerned in consultation with the matron, as to suit the work of the respective hospitals and to correspond more or less with the hours of duty and privileges of the nurses in the General Hospital.

- (b) The dieting arrangements for nurses are, in most hospitals, in the hands of a paid house-keeper who works under the direct orders of the Matron Superintendent of the hospital.
- (c) Nurses are not ordinarily deprived of their salary when sick in the hospital; they are given the leave due to them as in the case of other Government servants. They are further allowed to draw ration allowance when on leave on average pay. Hospital charges are recovered from the pay of nurses drawing more than Rs. 50 a month as in the case of other Government servants.

The Government have not received any complaints in regard to the matters referred to above.

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"May I know why the nurses are made to work for longer hours in the night than in the day?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. ARGOYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I do not know, Sir. But that has been the practice for many years. I suppose that one of the reasons for it is that it is difficult to arrange for service during night."

Provision for latrines in the Victoria Caste and Gasha Hospital, Triplicane.

* 659 Q.—Mr. C. S. GOVINDARAJA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that no provision has been made in the Victoria Caste and Gasha Hospital, Triplicane, for latrines and urinals for the use of medical students or out-patients;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian pupil midwives are housed in the quarters, 8 ft. by 7 ft., which were built for and occupied by totis in the said hospital, and whether it is made to serve as kitchen, bedroom and bathing place;

(c) whether any officer of the Medical or Public Health department ever inspected these quarters and reported about their unsuitability from health-point of view;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is no laundry attached to that hospital and that the hospital clothing is washed and spread out for drying in the vacant ground by the side of the wards; and

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(e) when the head of the Medical Department last inspected that hospital, and whether he made a report to Government about the above defects with a view to effect necessary improvements or whether the Surgeon-General has taken steps to remedy the defects?

4.—(a) There are no latrines or urinals for the use of out-patients or medical students. The students use the nurses' lavatories.

(b) Of the fifteen Indian pupil midwives ten are housed in quarters 8 ft. by 7 ft. which were originally built for and occupied by totis. There are eight such rooms in one block, three of which are used as hospital store-rooms, the remaining five being occupied by ten pupil midwives, two in each room. The other five pupils occupy three rooms in a block originally called "Lady Bashyam Ayyangar's Brahman Kitchen" which consists of four small kitchen rooms. None of the living rooms are used for cooking or bathing purposes. The pupil midwives do not cook their own food but obtain it from outside. A lavatory and a separate tap for bathing purposes are attached to the abovementioned Kitchen block and are used by all the pupil midwives in common.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The hospital clothing is washed and spread out to dry in the veranda or on the lawn adjoining the wards according to the weather.

(e) The Surgeon-General last inspected the Hospital in March or April 1927. Plans and estimates have been prepared to remedy the various defects in the Hospital and certain suggestions to bring them up to date were considered at a meeting during last month by the Superintendent of the Hospital, the Consulting Architect and the Surgeon-General.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" With reference to (b) out of the 15 pupil midwives, how many have been sent by local bodies? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The information is not available, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether rent is charged for the quarters so occupied? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I should like to have notice, Sir."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know, Sir, how long since these buildings were converted into residential quarters? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I cannot answer offhand, Sir."

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" Sir, the hon. Minister may remember that I put an interpellation on the matter during the last March session drawing attention to the lot of inconvenience caused to the pupils and pointing out the necessity of a consultation with the Superintendent of the Hospital. In view of the extreme inconvenience that is being caused, will the hon. Minister be pleased to expedite the matter? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Yes, Sir. As is seen from the answer given to (e), the Government have been moving forward in the matter. There has been a consultation with the Superintendent of the Hospital, the Consulting Architect and the Surgeon-General.”

* 660 to 664 Qs.—Please see pages 187 to 192 infra

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Exemption of the Kannikaparameswari institutions from the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

* 665 Q.—MR. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Vaisyas of Proddatur have made representations that their Kannikaparameswari institutions should be exempted from the operation of the Religious Endowments Act just as Jain temples are exempted ; and

(b) what action he proposed to take in the matter of Kannikaparameswari institutions ?

A.—(a) The Government have received no such representation from the Vaisyas of Proddatur.

(b) The question is under the consideration of the Government

MR. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—“ May I know from the hon. Minister whether he did not receive any representation from the Vaisyas of Proddatur ? ”

THE HON. MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ The answer is there, Sir. I cannot say I have not heard of that representation. I am not sure whether I read it in the papers or heard of it from some private source.”

MR. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—“ May I know whether the hon. Minister refers to the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act when he says in the answer that the question is under the consideration of the Government ; if he is referring to that, may I know when it is likely to come ? ”

THE HON. MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ The hon. Member is right in his presumption and I hope his wish will be realized as early as possible.”

MR. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—“ May I know whether it can be within a month, at the meeting in December ? ”

THE HON. MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ If there is a meeting in December, we will probably have it then.”

MR. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—“ With reference to (b), may I know what the recommendation is of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board ? ”

THE HON. MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ My hon. Friend will forgive me if I do not give him the information just now.”

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know, Sir, at what stage the matter is, whether it has been referred to the Government of India or not ? May we have some more details ? ”